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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,256	10/16/2003	Wilbert L. Singleton	03SAPAT36	4893

7590 12/01/2004  
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EXAMINER

CHAN, KO HUNG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/688,256

Applicant(s)

SINGLETON, WILBERT L.

Examiner

Korie H. Chan

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-7 and 9-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

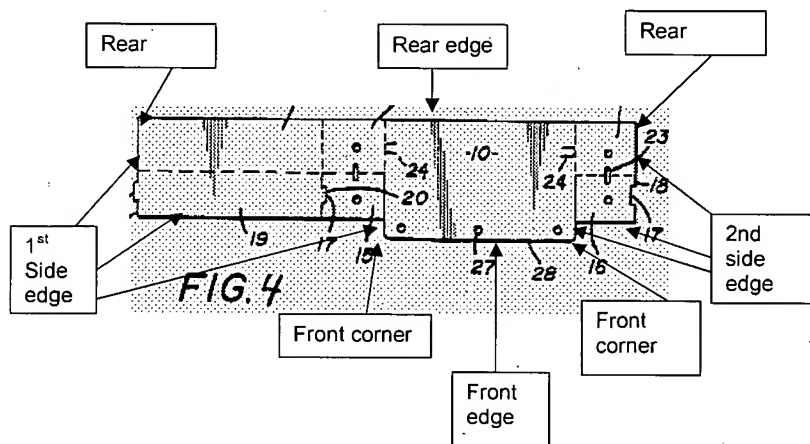
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dieter (US patent no. 4,530,533). Dieter discloses a collapsible refuse funnel, comprising a generally rectangular planar body having a front edge, a rear edge, a first side edge, and a second side edge, the body formable into a funnel configuration by bringing first and second rear corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second side edges, respectively, with the rear edge into overlapping relation with each other without overlapping the first and second front corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second edges, respectively, with the front edge such that the front edge and the portion of the body immediately adjacent the front edge remains substantially flat; and connection means (17 and 20) for collecting the rear corner portions of the body in the overlapping relation; and attachment means (23) made of plurality of tabs (15, 16) formed in the body in opposing pairs to engage a refuse bag (25, figure 2).

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**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green (US patent no. 5,121,779) in view of Dieter (US patent no. 4,530,533). Green discloses a collapsible refuse funnel, comprising a generally rectangular planar body (figure 2) having a front edge (7, figure 1), a rear edge (15), a first side edge (11,

13), and a second side edge (11, 13), the body formable into a funnel configuration by bringing first and second rear corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second side edges, respectively, with the rear edge into overlapping relation with each other without overlapping the first and second front corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second edges, respectively, with the front edge; and connection means (23 and 27) for collecting the rear corner portions of the body in the overlapping relation. However, Green does not disclose the front edge and the portion of the body immediately adjacent the front edge remains substantially flat or an attachment for the refuse bag. To make the front edge portion substantially flat has the known advantage of increasing the area for scooping into the funnel passage. Dieter teaches a collapsible refuse funnel, comprising a generally rectangular planar body having a front edge, a rear edge, a first side edge, and a second side edge, the body formable into a funnel configuration by bringing first and second rear corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second side edges, respectively, with the rear edge into overlapping relation with each other without overlapping the first and second front corner portions of the body adjacent to the intersections of the first and second edges, respectively, with the front edge such that the front edge and the portion of the body immediately adjacent the front edge remains substantially flat; and connection means (17 and 20) for collecting the rear corner portions of the body in the overlapping relation; and attachment means (23) made of plurality of tabs (15, 16) formed in the body in opposing pairs to engage a refuse bag (25, figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

have modify the refuse holder of Green such that the front edge portion is flat as taught by Dieter to increase the area for scooping into the funnel passage and to provide bag holding attachment tabs for attachment to the refuse container as taught by Dieter.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 14-21 are allowed.

Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art of record further demonstrate substantially flat front edge portion in a refuse funnel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 703-305-

8079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Korie H. Chan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

khc  
November 29, 2004